



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon counties, was 4.3 percent in October 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. The current rate was unchanged from September, and up an entire percentage point from the October 2000 rate of 3.3 percent. There were no new layoffs announced in October helping to slow the growth in the number of jobless workers. During October the number unemployed increased by 100 to 10,900, however, the year-over-year increase was 3,000. The number of persons employed decreased by 600 from September to 242,500 but the current level is 10,700 above October 2000. The drop in employment is the first since November 2000 when employment

**Treasure Valley Table 2: September 2001
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,019	6,928	3.8	176,091
Adams	1,796	189	10.5	1,607
Boise	2,852	135	4.7	2,717
Canyon	70,376	4,012	5.7	66,364
Elmore	9,460	500	5.3	8,960
Gem	6,976	702	10.1	6,273
Owyhee	4,548	159	3.5	4,389
Payette	10,494	850	8.1	9,645
Valley	4,097	292	7.1	3,805
Washington	4,704	365	7.8	4,338
Statewide	688,680	33,440	4.9	655,240

decreased by 1,200. The decrease in employment also reflects the slowdown in economic activity. Less activity leads to fewer new job opportunities. The changes in the labor force components resulted in a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 500 people from September to October 2001, but an increase of 13,700 people from one year ago. Table 2 shows the October labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 400 from September to Oc-

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,400	253,900	239,700	-0.2	5.7
Unemployment	10,900	10,800	7,900	0.9	38.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.3	3.3		
Total Employment	242,500	243,100	231,800	-0.2	4.6
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,700	253,900	237,800	-0.9	5.8
Unemployment	9,500	9,000	7,000	5.6	35.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	2.9		
Total Employment	242,200	244,900	230,800	-1.1	4.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	232,800	232,400	227,300	0.2	2.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,200	54,700	54,100	-0.9	0.2
Mining & Construction	18,100	18,200	16,700	-0.5	8.4
Manufacturing	36,100	36,500	37,400	-1.1	-3.5
Durable Goods	27,600	28,100	28,700	-1.8	-3.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,300	3,300	3,300	0.0	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,500	2,400	0.0	4.2
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,300	0.0	-15.4
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,500	6,600	8,100	-1.5	-19.8
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,100	13,400	12,300	-2.2	6.5
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,800	1,700	0.0	5.9
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,900	2,000	-5.3	-10.0
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,400	8,700	1.2	-2.3
Food Products	5,700	5,600	5,800	1.8	-1.7
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,800	1,800	-5.6	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	178,600	177,700	173,200	0.5	3.1
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,200	12,300	12,200	-0.8	0.0
Transportation	6,800	6,900	6,700	-1.4	1.5
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
Trade	57,400	57,600	56,600	-0.3	1.4
Wholesale Trade	13,400	13,600	13,800	-1.5	-2.9
Durable Goods	8,200	8,200	8,300	0.0	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	5,200	5,400	5,500	-3.7	-5.5
Retail Trade	44,000	44,000	42,800	0.0	2.8
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	6,300	5,500	-1.6	12.7
Foods Stores	7,200	7,200	7,800	0.0	-7.7
Eating & Drinking Places	15,500	15,600	14,800	-0.6	4.7
Other Retail Trade	15,100	14,900	14,700	1.3	2.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,100	11,100	11,100	0.0	0.0
Services	61,900	62,100	59,100	-0.3	4.7
Business Services	14,900	15,000	15,000	-0.7	-0.7
Health Services	18,800	18,600	16,700	1.1	12.6
Hospitals	9,000	8,900	7,500	1.1	20.0
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,800	4,700	4,600	2.1	4.3
Other Services	23,400	23,800	22,800	-1.7	2.6
Government	36,000	34,600	34,200	4.0	5.3
Federal Government	5,300	5,300	5,100	0.0	3.9
State Government	13,400	13,100	12,600	2.3	6.3
Education	4,800	4,500	4,500	6.7	6.7
Administration	8,600	8,600	8,100	0.0	6.2
Local Government	17,300	16,200	16,500	6.8	4.8
Education	11,400	10,400	10,900	9.6	4.6
Administration	5,900	5,800	5,600	1.7	5.4

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

tober 2001, and increased by 5,500 jobs since October 2000. The changes resulted in 232,800 nonfarm jobs in October. The following industrial sectors experienced job losses of 100 or more between October and September 2001: *Motion Pictures and Amusement & Recreation Services* (330), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (310), *Wholesale Trade* (250), *Heavy Construction* (60), *Eating & Drinking Places* (130), *Business Services* (130), and *Agriculture-related Services* (120). With the exception of electronics, the other sectors lost jobs because of seasonal factors. These losses were offset by increases in the following sectors: *Miscellaneous Retail* (110), *Health Services* (150), *Social Services* (170), *Educational Services* (210), *State Government Education* (400), and *Local Government Education* (980). The increase in the number of jobs in the educational sectors was because schools continued to hire support staff for the fall term. The growth in *Health Services* occurred as St. Lukes Regional Medical Center hired additional staff for the expansion of the Meridian hospital, which opened in late November.

Significant changes since October 2000 occurred in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (-1,650), *Food Stores* (-540), *Wholesale Trade* (-470), *Health Services* (2,100), *Construction* (1,410), and *Retail Trade* (1,180). The job losses are a result of various layoffs during the year. Over two-thirds of the new jobs in *Health Services* are in the *Hospital* sector as all of the MSA's hospitals have expanded their facilities thus increasing the number of workers needed. Every sector of *Construction* reported a year-over-year increase. *Heavy Construction* led the way with 680 new jobs as many highway and other infrastructure projects have been underway throughout the year. *General Merchandise Stores* and *Eating & Drinking Places* were the largest contributors to the growth in *Retail Trade* since October 2000 with more than 700 new jobs each. It should be noted that both of these industries experienced a loss of jobs between September and October 2001, again reflecting a slowing of the area's economy.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Rural Idaho Forum

On November 9 and 10, many people from around the state gathered at Albertson College of Idaho's Langroise Center for the Andrus Center for Public Policy's Rural Idaho Forum. At the conference, lawmakers, civic leaders, business persons, and others with an interest in rural Idaho shared thoughts and ideas regarding rural Idaho. The topic of community-government-private cooperation and involvement was stressed by a number of panelists that spoke at the forum. Experts who spoke at the conference stated that infrastructure was critical for the success of rural communities in Idaho and everywhere else in the nation. The first step in helping rural Idaho communities is for the communities to come up

with a long-term plan using information gathered from a number of different players. Cooperation among the local government, state government, and private businesses is the key. The conference was attended by more than 250 people. For more information on the conference, please see the Andrus Center's website at www.andruscenter.org.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- A new 58,600-square-foot Albertson's store opened at Vista Avenue and Overland Road in Boise. The new store offers expanded services, and includes a substation for the Boise Police Department. A fuel center at the site will open at a later date. The store replaces an older and smaller Albertson's store on the same site that was demolished.
- Big 5 Sporting Goods opened its first Boise area store at 101 North Milwaukee Street in the former Future Shop building. Big 5 Sporting Goods stores offer a full line of brand-name sporting goods products at competitive prices. The company operates over 250 stores in nine western states. The Boise store will employ from 16 to 22 employees.
- The Caldwell Police Department opened its new station at 110 South Fifth Avenue. The station includes briefing, training, interview, records, and evidence rooms, administrative offices, and a workout room with showers and lockers. Also, a special report-writing room allows officers to monitor young offenders waiting for their parents, without having to keep them handcuffed. The building also will be the new home of the Caldwell City Council. Council chambers will double as a community meeting room. A \$5.6 million bond approved by the voters paid for the 26,400-square-foot facility that replaces the former station on Main Street.
- The new Canyon County Animal Shelter opened its doors on Graye Lane, off Happy Day Boulevard in Caldwell. The new shelter has floors that can be heated or cooled, curved roofs covered in canvas to diminish the sound of barking dogs, an air-exchange system, and an abundance of natural lighting. The facility is about eight times bigger than the old shelter in Nampa, and it includes a surgery center and conference room. The new shelter has 22 holding kennels and 50 kennels for adoptable dogs.
- Capital City Family Medicine announced it will move from 1625 West State Street in Boise to the first floor of 1520 West State Street by early March 2002. The new location, formerly Idaho Power's customer service center, offers more office space and parking and will boast a new radiology suite. The medical practice hopes to add two more family medicine

providers. The 27,000-square-foot building will be renamed Plaza 1520, with renovations planned for the interior and exterior. Tenants for the basement and second floor of the building have not yet been signed.

- A new video production company, Crosstie Productions, opened in Boise. The company specializes in videos for railroad fans, and its first commercial release features the Idaho Northern & Pacific's Cascade subdivision. Crosstie's web address is www.crosstieproductions.com.
- Fred Meyer opened its sixth store in the Treasure Valley at the site of the former Franklin Shopping Center at Franklin Road and Orchard Street in Boise. The new store is longer and narrower than other Fred Meyer stores to accommodate the available space. The design includes three customer entrances: the eastern entrance provides access to the food section, the central entrance opens to the clothing and housewares portion of the store, and the western entrance is near the outdoor garden center. A Starbucks Coffee bar and a Washington Mutual Bank branch are located inside the store. About 130 new employees will be assisted by 50 experienced Fred Meyer workers who have transferred from other stores. Adjoining space in the building has been leased to Baskin Robbins ice cream shop and Great Clips hair salon.
- Intermountain Community Bank opened a new branch at 521 Twelfth Avenue South in Nampa. The new full-service bank branch plans to add three drive-in lanes and a teller lane by April 2002. Intermountain Community Bank is a state-chartered commercial bank offering standard deposit, loan, investment, and insurance services for both personal and commercial banking. Online services are available on the bank's website at 222.intermountainbank.com.
- McDonald InsurServe, a Twin Falls-based insurance agency, moved its Treasure Valley office from Nampa to Boise. The company has leased over 4,000-square feet of space in Vista Station at Vista Avenue and Rose Hill Street—nearly twice as much space as their Nampa offices. The company hopes to double in size in five years and double its Nampa staff of 9 by the end of this year, and much of that growth is expected to occur in the Treasure Valley.
- Construction began on a new \$250,000 hangar at the Nampa Airport. The 5,400-square-foot hangar will serve as headquarters for the Nampa Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, housing the Cessna 182 aircraft belonging to the organization. The hangar also will contain a classroom and communications center. The Treasure Valley Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association will share the space

with the squadron. A \$1.8 million, 65-acre expansion also is in progress at the Nampa Airport, doubling the available space for hangars. The expansion project also will make room for flight training, repair shops, and chartering services, and should be completed in one to three years.

- The Nampa Police Department opened a substation in the Edwards Theaters complex on Karcher Road. The facility will be home to the department's traffic team and a community service officer, with other officers using the space as needed to write reports or meet with citizens. The new substation allows officers to avoid traveling 20 minutes across town to get to the main station. Department personnel and citizen volunteers remodeled the former Pasta Prima restaurant, saving the city about \$7,000. The 1,200-square-foot leased space will be used until a new police and fire station can be built in the area within the next few years.
- Pioneer Federal Credit Union plans to open a branch office in Eagle early in 2002. The credit union signed a lease to occupy the former Washington Federal Savings Bank branch at 560 East State Street. Washington Federal moved to a new building across State Street in October. Pioneer Federal is a community credit union based in Mountain Home, and currently has eight branch offices. The Eagle branch will offer investment, insurance, and mortgage services. Pioneer Federal also hopes to open another branch office in Ada County by the end of next year, but no site has yet been determined.
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its 24-hour emergency room service and full-service hospital. The expanded facility at 520 South Eagle Road includes an obstetrics ward and surgery rooms along with 62 beds. The number of beds is expected to increase to 146 upon completion of the fifth and sixth floors. St. Luke's Meridian will serve patients who live in west Boise, Meridian, Eagle, and Kuna, and even Canyon County. Because Meridian's population more than tripled in the 1990s, demand for expanded services at the location occurred more quickly than originally expected by hospital administrators. St. Luke's is already planning to build a second hospital building at the site.
- The University of Phoenix plans to move to the first floor of Eagle Road Professional Center II by early next year. The university has leased a 7,800-square-foot space that is larger than its current temporary quarters in the Boise Research Center. The new facility is on Gentry Way, southeast of Meridian. This location was chosen to allow the school to draw students from several growing communities. The Boise campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology; additional de-

gree programs will be added as soon as possible. Currently 29 students are enrolled in the Boise-area programs. The university is recruiting faculty members with at least a master's degree and who work in their chosen fields.

- WestCoast Hospitality Corp. announced plans to purchase the DoubleTree Downtown hotel in Boise by the end of the year. The DoubleTree Downtown hotel at 1800 Fairview Avenue has 182 rooms, along with a restaurant and 8,600-square feet of meeting space. Hilton Hotels Corp. will continue to manage the DoubleTree Club hotel on ParkCenter Boulevard and the DoubleTree Riverside hotel on Chinden Boulevard. WestCoast Hospitality manages the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise, in addition to owning the ParkCenter Suites hotel on ParkCenter Boulevard. The purchase deal includes 42 Red Lion hotels, and five DoubleTree hotels that were previously Red Lion hotels.
- Washington Group International's bankruptcy reorganization plan was approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Reno, Nevada. The global construction and engineering firm has been through two bankruptcies in six years. Stock will be divided between lenders and unsecured creditors, while former shareholders will receive nothing. Financing, expected to be finalized in December, must be secured before this bankruptcy will be officially closed. Washington Group also announced that it laid off 30 employees in Boise as part of its efforts to eliminate 8,000 jobs worldwide. After the cuts, Washington Group will have about 30,000 employees.

Adams County

- The New Meadows Valley Emergency Service Building held an open house in early November that followed the grand opening celebration. The project recently was completed by Simplot Construction and is the first Emergency Services Building in New Meadows; the project was a joint venture by the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District. The new facility will house four fire trucks and two ambulances.
- Construction started on the Western Timber building that will be located in the business park in Council. Western Timber anticipates a January 1, 2002 opening date.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort opened for business on Wednesday, November 28, 2001. The Farmer's Almanac predicts that Idaho will have above average precipitation throughout the winter months, so ski-

ers and snowboarders are looking for a great season at Bogus Basin.

Elmore County

- Jennie's Fashion Boutique held a grand opening ceremony in mid-November. The shop is located at 204 North Main Street in Mountain Home and is designed as a one-stop shop for all wardrobe needs.
- The Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) was not awarded the first wing of the F-22 Raptors, the next generation air superiority fighter of the Air Force. After more than a year of studies and hearings, the Air Force decided to award the first operational wing of the Raptors to Langley AFB in Virginia, where most of the training will be done over the Atlantic Ocean.

Valley County

- Brundage Mountain Ski Resort opened on Wednesday, November 28, 2001.
- Proposed improvements to McCall-Donnelly (M-D) High School include a new gymnasium and a performing arts center. These improvements are a part of the \$8-\$10 million improvement plan that was designed by the M-D School District and Design West Architects of Nampa.
- The McCall Community Improvement Corporation (MCIC) recently was established as a non-profit organization that will accept tax-deductible donations and disperse the funds to benefit the City of McCall. The MCIC replaces the McCall Action Committee, which was a subcommittee of the non-profit Valley County Unified Economic Development, Inc.

Washington County

- The Vendome Events Center in Weiser held a grand opening celebration on November 30, 2001. Following a walk-through inspection by the City Council, the group determined that new, more practical tile should be laid in the bathrooms in January 2002. The Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual Festival of Trees featured 19 trees which were displayed at the grand opening of the Vendome Events Center.

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